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A

M E T H O D


OF CURING THE

J A U N D I C E, &c

HILL, J.



[Price One Shilling.]



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A
M E T H O D
OF CURING THE
J A U N D I C E

AND OTHER
DISORDERS OF THE LIVER,
BY THE
HERB AGRIMONY,

Taken in the manner of TEA.

Hill, John

Obstructiones Jecinoris expurgat. Robur Visceri addit.

GALEN.

L O N D O N :

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M.DCC.LXVIII.



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1875

A
METHOD OF CURING
THE
JAUNDICE
AND OTHER
DISORDERS OF THE LIVER.

THE frequency of disorders of the Liver, the difficulty of their cure, and the testimony of antiquity in favour of this Plant, render it worthy of a particular consideration.

The Liver is of such importance to the rest of the body, that nothing can go on well, when that is disordered. The disease most frequently arising from its distemperature is a Jaundice : 'tis therefore against

B this,

this, the Agrimony is particularly directed ; but it will be of like service in all other diseases arising from obstructions in that part.

It is an Herb every where to be had : it is extremely pleasant to the taste ; and no difficulty or trouble attend the use of it ; for it is no way so effectual as made into a tea.

The disease for which it is recommended is not liable to be mistaken ; for none is more obvious to the senses : and as to the certainty of the effects of this Herb, if there be faith in writers, or truth can be learned from experience, that cannot be doubted.

The Jaundice is a mixture of too much gall in the blood ; and shews itself by a yellowness of the skin.

It

It is the office of the Liver to separate the gall from the blood; and being thus separated, 'tis essential to health, that it have a free passage into the intestines.

If either this separation of the gall, or its discharge into the bowels be prevented, or obstructed, a Jaundice follows. In the first case, the disease is owing to a morbid degeneracy of the substance of the Liver; and in the other, to an obstruction in that passage by which the gall-bladder should empty itself into the intestines.

In both cases, the efficacy of Agrimony is beyond a question. In the first it cures alone: in the other it requires the assistance only of a vomit, and some gentle purges.

It should seem the first mentioned cause of a Jaundice has been overlooked by

some physicians. *Hippocrates* was aware of it ; and *Galen*, to whom more praise is due, than all that has been paid, was very clear in his perception of it. It was from that cause he gave the just praise to this distinguished Herb ; that it cleared away the matter of the obstruction, and then restored the Liver to its healthy strength. None seems to have understood the disease more accurately than this writer : and it is pity chymistry has thrown into disuse the simple remedies, on which he placed dependence.

That the patient may understand upon what principles of reason he attempts his cure by this Herb ; and may be able to judge from time to time, how he proceeds in it ; 'tis fit he should entertain a right idea of the seat and source of his distemper, of the accidents which may have caused it, and of the appearances which will declare the gradual re-establishment

lishment of his health. The Liver is the softest and tenderest part of the human body, and is the first that decays after death. It is naturally destitute of feeling, as has been proved by surgeons touching it, in cases of certain wounds. In a condition of health, it is composed of innumerable vessels, lodged in a light pulpy matter. The gall is separated from it, and kept within it, in its proper vessels; but makes no part of the substance itself: for the Liver is neither bitter nor yellow.

This is the healthy condition of the part; but it is subject to many changes from illness. It may be swelled to an amazing size; or shrunk almost to nothing: it may be melted into matter, by an abscess; or shrivelled up like dried parchment; its passages may be obstructed by various means; and its whole substance may become the depository of the matter of other diseases, driven thither by the course

of circulation: In all these cases a Jaundice may naturally follow; beside the other sad consequences attending some of them.

But beside all these causes, by which the gall may be detained within the Liver, instead of passing gradually into the intestines, that fluid will many times obstruct itself.

The gall is of all the liquids in a human body, the most subject to changes. It often grows tough, thick, and viscid, so as to be incapable to pass through its destined channels; and thus causes the disease under consideration: and there have been instances, where instead of its naturally small quantity, the gall-bladder has contained several pints.

From any of the distemperatures of the Liver here recited, a Jaundice may arise:
but

but it is most frequently owing to obstruction, from a thickened gall; or from stones generated among it, and stopping up the passage.

It is a disease easy of cure at first; but neglect gives it strength: it will thus become obstinate and tedious; but in itself is scarce ever mortal.

The origin of a Jaundice from thickened gall, has been proved to the senses; for on a person vomiting a quantity of it as firm as a hard jelly, the disease has gone off without farther care: in respect of gall-stones, they do not always cause a Jaundice, though many times they do. Persons have had great numbers of them who never had this disease; but when it happens that one or more of them firmly stop the passage, it always follows.

An incrusting matter generated in the gall-bladder has often by degrees filled up the duct entirely ; and chalk, frequently taken for the Heartburn, has palpably produced the same effect.

Sometimes a load of viscid fæces in the intestines have occasioned it ; often the drying up an old sore ; and even a suppression of an accustomed sweating of the feet.

Fevers ill cured frequently produce a Jaundice ; and no way oftener than from the bark, taken rashly, and without preparation. A scorbutic humour thrown upon the Liver has also sometimes caused this disease ; and frequently it has followed violent colics.

An Ague often leaves behind it a hard tumour in the Liver. The Evil will some-
times

times fall on the same part ; and beside these it has been found subject to imposthumes filled with a hard gelatinous matter. Any of these will cause a Jaundice : but of them all the scirrous hardness breeds that which is most difficult to cure.

Beside these there are also temporary and accidental Jaundices : the pressure of the womb in breeding women will cause it, and the tough condition of the fæces in new born infants : but of these the former goes off of itself after delivery ; and the latter with two or three gentle purgatives.

The bites of Vipers bring on a kind of Jaundice, and even those of enraged animals, not mad, have produced the same effect.

Even

Even the passions have their power, and that no slight one in bringing on this disease; violent anger has given an instant Jaundice; fear has also had the same effect; and real grief, though slowly.

A sedentary life always disposes to it; and on the contrary too violent exercises have sometimes brought it on: but this never unless the cause was before ready in the body. The Jaundice also arises often from drinking spirituous liquors, and sometimes from great draughts of cold ones in a heated state of body.

According to the difference of these causes, or the state of their power, we may distinguish three stages or degrees of the Jaundice; the *Pale*, the *Yellow*, and the *Dark Jaundice*: custom talks of two, the *Yellow*, and what is idly called the *Black*: the first is overlooked; though most essential

essential to be known of all ; because by neglect it often leads in the others, and is in itself always easy to be cured. As to the common name of the last, it is idle : no man was ever black with this disease ; the colour it gives in the worst stage is a dark brownish yellow, mixed with a livid green.

It will be essential to the patient to know rightly under which of these degrees of the disease he labours, because there is some difference in the method of cure : and he will always know with more precision what he is to hope ; and be prepared against what he has to fear.

The three degrees are easily distinguished by their symptoms.

In the first or slightest degree of Jaundice, there comes on an unaccountable weakness and seeming weariness of body :
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the pulse is a little quickened ; and there is some slight thirst : a shortness of breath follows ; and the skin is dry : the urine is thin and very clear, and is a little yellower than ordinary : the stools continue in their usual appearance. A bitter taste is perceived in the mouth at times ; and the face and breast appear of a dead, pale colour, only a little inclining to yellow : but the white of the inner corners of the eyes, being observed by day-light, shew a plain, and not to be mistaken yellowness.

This is the degree of Jaundice, which often follows a slight fever ; especially after bleeding too largely in the beginning of it. It will sometimes go off after a few days without the help of medicines ; and people will say it was only weakness left by the disease ; but it is an error : and this is not the way that it should terminate. Nothing is so easy as to cure
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it radically, but when it thus ceases of itself, it seldom fails to return ; and often fixes a more lasting and obstinate degree of the complaint upon the unwary patient.

In the second stage of this disease which is its most common appearance, and under which it is called the yellow Jaundice, all the symptoms of its former appearance are encreased ; and several new ones rise. The first uneasiness here grows to a continued anxiety ; the weariness to a perfect disgust to all exercise or motion. The body becomes costive ; and the stools are white : the urine is high-coloured, bright, and fiery ; it affords a high yellow froth ; and linen dipped in it becomes yellow, as if dyed. The marks of yellowness need not now be diligently sought ; they are too obvious. The skin of the whole body becomes perfectly yellow ; but the whites of the eyes most of all. There is a frequent itching of the
skin ;

skin ; a heartburn often attends at times ; and some have fainting fits. All this while the pulse is quiet : and if there be no other disorder, the person retains his appetite ; but is always uneasy for some hours after eating.

When this degree of the Jaundice has held a person for any considerable time, there is a continual bitter taste in the mouth ; and the very sweat is sometimes bitter : to some persons in this stage all objects seem yellow ; and the sweat in others, will stain the sheets and linen to that colour.

In the third and worst degree of the Jaundice, a hardness is perceived in the right side : the pulse is weak, the stools are clayey and pale, the urine is dusky, and at times brown, or almost black ; a vast quantity of distempered gall, green, livid, or black, is at times thrown up by vomiting :

vomiting : there is great thirst ; little appetite ; and an universal weakness, and continual anguish. Costiveness grows upon the patient : and at length his ankles swell. This is the beginning of a dropsy ; a disease most of all things to be dreaded, following a Jaundice of this confirmed kind. Sometimes blood is voided toward the end, by stool, by urine, by spitting ; and often from the nose in the most alarming manner.

In all these stages and under all these appearances, the greatest dependance may be safely placed upon this celebrated * Herb ; which may be easily known from a short description.

It is a wild Plant, common in our dry barren pasture grounds, and by road sides, and under hedges. It grows to two foot

* *Hepatica nobilissima*, Ray. *Tonum hepatis hac herba se restituisse ait Lobelius.* *Schirros hepatis infuso se superasse Chomel.* *Haller.*

and

and a half high, an upright spiry Plant, with a brown stalk, pale green leaves, and a long slender spike of little yellow flowers, followed by rugged, hairy seeds.

The leaves of this Plant possess its virtues in a very high degree: but the crown of the root has them in the greatest perfection. The seeds are only to be used in the particular case of bloody stools attending this disease, but in this they exceed all other medicines: this was the dysentery for which the ancients held them above all things in virtue †.

As to the manner of giving Agrimony; it will convey its virtues freely and fully to common water. This therefore is the readiest, and in all respects the best way of taking it.

† Semen dysentericis unice, Pliny.



Agrimonia



For the first or flightest degree of Jaundice, strip off half a pound of the fresh leaves of Agrimony; clip them to pieces, and pour upon them, in a stone mug, a quart of boiling water; cover up the mug; and let it stand twenty-four hours, then press it off. Let it settle to be quite clear; and take it at four doses, eight hours distant from one another; sweetening it with honey. This quantity in the first stage will generally cure. If not, repeat it three or four times, and all will be well.

The body must be open all this time if it is naturally so the better; if not, half a pint of Jessops well-water, or any other of the purging waters, must be turned with milk into a kind of whey, and taken occasionally: not to purge, but merely to prevent costiveness.

When all is over, a somewhat larger dose of the same whey should be taken
C
twice,

twice, to operate as a purge, and carry off any thing that might remain after the disease.

When the Jaundice is in its second stage, which is the most common case of all, not the leaves but the crown of the root of Agrimony, is the part to be depended on. This is the place where the root ceases, and the stalk and leaves begin ; that part of the plant which is between earth and air. At this particular place, there is always a great collection of the best and richest juices of the plant. The bud is formed there in Autumn upon all new off-sets of the roots ; and continues till spring. 'Tis then, that is in the month of April, in its highest perfection of virtue, extreamly fragrant and agreeable ; but now in Autumn, and through the winter, lying almost within the ground, it continues fresh and full of virtue. After the plant shoots to a stalk, this part gives its rich-

richness to the leaves; and in the summer months they must be used: unless precaution have been had to dig this up, in time, and dry it in the shade; in which way it preserves all its virtue.

For the cure then of this common degree of the Jaundice, take up the roots of Agrimony to the length of an inch, with the buds upon them: of these cut to pieces six ounces, bruise them in a marble mortar, and pour upon them a quart of boiling water. Let this stand twenty-four hours, after which the liquor is to be strained off, and taken just as the former, sweetened with honey.

While this is making, let the person take a vomit. Nothing is so well as the common Ipecacuanha, worked off with water gruel. The morning after, let the Agrimony tea be taken, and continued thrice a day without intermission till the

disease is conquered. In what time this will be, depends upon the particular nature of the case, and the time the disorder has had to strengthen itself: but that the cure will follow, is as certain as any thing in physic.

To assist nature and the medicine in this conflict with the disease, the patient must have a due regard to his diet, and course of life. High-seasoned dishes should be avoided: nothing stronger than wine must be tasted; and of that the usual quantity is to be gradually diminished. The best drink is whey, made from new milk; and of this the more is taken the better: while the medicine dissolves, or opens the way for the obstructing matter, this will wash it out.

If the person be inclined to costiveness, Rhubarb is the thing he should apply to in this stage of this disease: and the way
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in which it succeeds best of all is this. Slice two drams of Rhubarb very thin ; slice also, in the same manner, an ounce and a half of Gentian : pour upon these a pint of boiling water ; and cut in a little fresh lemon and Seville orange peel. Let this stand covered twelve hours, then pour it clear off, and add a glass of white wine ; a moderate glass of this, more or less, as there may be occasion, will keep the body open ; it should be used throughout the cure, for that purpose. And in the natural and usual state of the disease, more than this will not be necessary.

In the meantime, exercise is to be used : of which riding is by far the best : and Spa water may be drank moderately with advantage.

If during this course, nature should at any time take a particular tendency to a purging, this is not to be suppressed, but

moderately assisted and encouraged, by enlarging the dose of the Rhubarb ; which in this case always answers that purpose, without wasting the strength.

If a troublesome itching and sudden tendency to sweat come on, let the patient go to bed, and take a dose of the Agrimony warm, once in half an hour for five or six times. A clammy yellow sweat will sometimes be thrown off this way, and the cure accomplished at once. Sometimes also from this treatment a sudden rash will break out ; and this way there will be an end of the disease : nor will the rash be troublesome more than a short time.

These are happy efforts of nature, and when they are seconded by the assistance of this herb, and a proper regimen, they make a speedy and effectual cure. But in the usual state of things, the patient is
to

to expect it by more gradual advances. The first mark of the medicine getting the better of the disease is that the urine loses its fiery aspect, and by degrees throws down a sediment : when this appears, encrease the dose of the medicine, and drink more whey. Nature is throwing off the disease by the safest passage of all ; and it is fit to give her all assistance.

After a little time thus managed, the stools will get their natural colour ; the yellowness of the eyes will go off ; and the skin will begin to recover its former appearance.

When the eyes are free from yellowness, the disease is at an end. The colour of the skin cannot go off so soon ; but this should be assisted by warm baths, with very careful rubbing afterwards : the natural colour will then soon return.

In this cure nothing of the common road of practice is necessary : no load of medicines, which often bring on one disease, while they cure another ; no bleedings which exhaust the body generally, while they only relieve for a time in some particular symptom. If there be a more than natural fulness of blood, here, as in any other case, this may require bleeding : but the disease itself never.

All that is necessary after the cure is to take three or four doses of the Rhubarb, at distant times ; enough to operate as a common purge, and then the constitution will be itself again, as much as if no such disease had ever oppressed it.

With regard to the third or worst state, that which is called Black Jaundice, we still may place our dependence, for all the good that can be had from medicine,
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on this Herb : but it will be needful to attend to more particulars of management.

In this case exercise is often painful : many feel themselves constantly worse after riding ; which is so beneficial in the other stages ; but even here it is not exercise, but the degree of it, that gives disturbance. Those to whom a horse has been offensive, have found great good by walking ; and if the motion of a coach can be endured, it is yet better. This also may be depended on, that gentle exercise will by degrees enable the patient to bear such as is somewhat brisker : and it will be wise to continue and encrease this as far as circumstances will admit.

The Rhubarb must be taken in this state of the disease more carefully, and constantly than in the former ; for it is essential here, that the body be kept continually open. Beside the good to be expected

pected from this, the patient is always more at ease for it.

If at any time the urine become darker coloured, and less in quantity than usual, more whey must be drank ; and the juice of Dandelion squeezed into it : or, if the herb be at hand, the blue flowered Wild Succory, the Italian salad, is better. In either case a considerable quantity may be taken, five or six spoonfuls at a time : for 'tis the happiness of these simple medicines, that a large dose does no harm.

A piece of thick flannel should be constantly worn next the skin over the whole part of the body where the hardness is felt.

To combat the violent thirst attending this state of the disease in some persons ; use the following drink. Upon a quarter of a pound of French barley pour a quart
of

of boiling water, add one ounce of Gum Arabic. Let it stand twenty-four hours, and take a spoonful into the mouth at a time, swallowing it gently ; it quenches this kind of thirst beyond all things.

The appetite will grow better during this course ; as also the digestion : for beside the qualities of the Agrimony, the Bitters with the Rhubarb tend to this good purpose.

If bloody stools come on, the seeds of Agrimony are to be made into a tea, just as the leaves.

When the hardness of the right side becomes less, or when gall stones are voided by stool, there is rational hope of a cure, even in this case. At the worst, if neither of these things can be brought about, the Patient under this course will pass his life more at ease ; and may
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be sure he is doing all that can be, to prevent the distemper from growing upon him ; or terminating in what is most to be feared of all, a dropfy.

If what is here laid down be intelligible to the patient's self, his friends, or attendants, the purpose of the publication is answered : if any thing be less clear than it ought ; if any symptom, not mentioned here, should arise in a particular case ; if the directions be not full enough ; or if but the patient's mind will be set more at ease by farther explanations, he may apply freely, in person, or by letter to the author, Dr. Hill, in *St. James's-Street* ; who will be always happy in opportunities of being useful.

It may be proper to add, that not only the Jaundice, in its several stages, is thus cured by the Herb Agrimony ; but that it has the same power against all obstructions of the liver, whether

whether they be attended with a discolouring of the skin or not. The other symptoms here enumerated appear in these obstructions, where there is no yellowness; and the same medicine, taken at this earlier period, will yet more easily set all right: it will prevent the appearance of that disease; which is, for a thousand reasons, better than the cure.

THE END.

